

REMARKS

This Amendment is submitted in response to the Office Action mailed November 28, 2005 in the application. Claims 1-13 have been canceled. Claims 14-17 have been added.

The Examiner has rejected applicants' claims 1, 2, 5 and 7-13 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by the Johnson, et al. patent (U.S. Patent 6,373,399). The Examiner has rejected applicants' claims 3, 4 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the Johnson, et al. patent. Claims 1-13 have been cancelled, thus rendering moot these rejections.

New claims 14-17 are presented. Independent claim 14 recites a wireless communication apparatus comprising a functional element group including a plurality of functional elements each performing a first function and a second function, wherein the first function is a wireless communication, the second function is measuring a physical value, and the functional element group is capable of measuring the physical value in a broader range rather than a range measured by each one of the functional elements and forms a network system arranged to perform a wireless communication among the functional elements through the first function; and a base station for collectively managing the plurality of functional elements and for wireless communication with each of the functional elements to control the functional element group or to receive data from the plurality of functional elements. Independent claim 17 recites a corresponding method.

As discussed in the application as filed on page 59, line 24 through page 60, line 2, "Each functional element may have a different measurement range although it has the same measurement function." Figure 48 of the drawings illustrates exemplary functional elements each capable of measuring within different temperature ranges. The application from page

60, line 3 through page 63, line 12 provides additional description and various exemplary types of thermocouples suitable for use in the present invention. As described, and as recited in claims 14 and 17, the collective measuring capability of the functional element group is broader or greater than that of each individual functional element.

New claims 15 and 16 depend from claim 14. Claim 15 recites that the functional elements are used in different environments. Claim 16 recites that the functional elements sense respectively different object substances through measuring the physical value by the second function. The application from page 63, line 17 through page 64, line 4 sets forth an example of limiting the operational environment of each respective function element. The application from page 64, line 6 through line 25, with reference to Figures 50A and 50B, sets forth an example of providing functional elements that send respectively different object substances.

In the office action, the Examiner relies upon the Johnson, et al. patent for rejecting now-cancelled claims 1-13. It is submitted that the Johnson, et al. patent does not disclose the apparatuses and method recited in new claims 14-17. In particular, the Johnson, et al. patent is directed to a radio based system for sending data from plural network service modules, with each module attached to a different meter, such as a utility meter (col. 6, lines 47-58; Fig. 1). There is no teaching or suggestion in the Johnson, et al. patent, however, that multiple meters operate so that they are capable of measuring a physical value in a broader range as compared to the measurement capability of a single meter. This is further substantiated by the fact that each meter in the Johnson, et al. patent is disposed at a distinct location remote from other meters measuring that physical value. Hence, the Johnson, et al. patent neither discloses nor

suggests applicants' invention as recited in claims 14-17. It is therefore requested that claims 14-17 be allowed.

If the Examiner believes an interview would expedite consideration of this Amendment or of the application, a request is made that the Examiner telephone applicants' counsel at (212) 790-9200.

Dated: February 16, 2006

Cowan, Liebowitz & Latman, P.C.
1133 Avenue of the Americas
New York, NY 10036-6799
(212) 792-9200

Respectfully submitted,



Mark Montague
Reg. No. 36,612
Attorney for Applicants